

iCoDaCo Online Conference:

Working conditions in the dance field: in pursuit of fairness

Tuesday, 3 November 2026, 16:00 – 18:00 CET

Online (Zoom and livestreamed on HowlRound) in English

Organised by: FACE–Fresh Arts Coalition Europe in the framework of the iCoDaCo project co-funded by the European Union

In collaboration with: HowlRound

Registration: Register via [this link](#)

Upon registration, you will receive a Zoom link automatically.

This online conference brings together dance artists, choreographers, researchers and cultural practitioners to examine the specific circumstances in which contemporary dance is practised, produced and presented. It considers how the field is absorbing a broader **crisis of disinvestment** across Europe, and how that crisis compounds existing and unresolved inequalities. Working conditions in the sector remain markedly uneven from one European context to another: access to unemployment insurance, health cover, pension contributions and minimum fee levels varies considerably.

The conference poses an important question: **how might artistic practice itself, precisely because it is formed in response to contextual constraints, come to inform cultural policy rather than simply respond to it after the fact?** It also asks how dance artists engage with the broader question of social and cultural justice within their own working practice, treating this not as a separate concern but as inseparable from the question of fair working conditions itself. Ultimately, the conference aims to foster critical dialogue on the sector's capacity to address these disparities directly, and to draw out recommendations that could support a fairer and more consistent baseline for artists and arts workers across European cultural cooperation.

Programme

1. Introductory remarks (16:00 – 16:10 CET)

Welcome words by **Yohann Floch**, FACE – Fresh Arts Coalition Europe (he/his)



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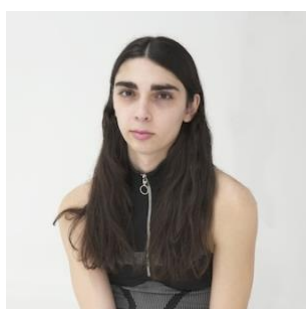
Yohann Floch is the Director of FACE, a resource platform that facilitates European capacity-building programmes in the contemporary performing arts field, and the Director of Operations at On the Move, the international network dedicated to artistic and cultural mobility. Throughout his career, Yohann has designed, coordinated, and contributed to numerous European cooperation projects and pilot international collaborations while working for independent arts organisations and cultural institutions. He serves governmental bodies and private foundations as an external expert and leads or co-authors cultural policy reports. Previously, Yohann held various leadership positions, including Secretary General of the European Dancehouse Network, Director of Skåne's International Resource Office, Coordinator of Dansehallerne's Nordic dance network, and Coordinator of the Circostrada network.

<https://fresh-europe.org/>

2. Inspiring presentations (16:10 – 16:30 CET)

Following the introduction to the conference, the opening segment will showcase two speakers – artists from iCoDaCo. Each will explore the concept of 'fair working conditions', offering unique insights into how they respond to opportunities and challenges through addressing solidarity, transparency, sustainability and responsibility.

Keynote by iCoDaCo artist **AURA**, Portugal (she / her)



© Sofia Calvet

AURA is a transdisciplinary artist interested in identity, futurity, and sustainability issues, and programmer of Asterisco, a space and festival for dissident artists. Her work has been presented at Municipal Theatre of Porto, Lisbon Municipal Galleries, Maia Contemporary Art Biennial, The Place, Nottingham Contemporary, Centre for Live Art Yorkshire, Stockholm Fringe Festival, schuur, Derida Dance Center, One Dance, among others. She holds a MA in Performance Making by Goldsmiths, a PG in Cultural Management and Sustainability by FLUC and a BA in Fine Arts and Intermedia by ESAP and ASP Gdansk.

www.auradafonseca.com & <https://asterisco-colectivo.com>

Keynote by iCoDaCo artist **Deborah Light**, Wales, United Kingdom (she/her)



© Noel Dacey

Deborah Light is an experienced dance artist, choreographer and movement director working across dance, theatre, film and site based practice. She creates work independently and collaboratively, regularly performs for others, movement directs for theatre and lectures in movement at Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. Deborah uses her expertise to support other artists and the freelance arts sector in Wales through mentoring and strategic roles. She is based in Cardiff and has 3 young children.

An anti patriarchal perspective runs through Deborah's creative practice, for her dancing is a site of personal and shared knowledge, pleasure and transformation.

www.lightladdemberton.com & <https://deborahlight.com>

Their presentations will set the tone for the broader discussions that follow, grounding the conference in real-world artistic experiences and critical reflections.

3. Breakout sessions (16:30 – 17:00 CET)

The second segment will be interactive, inviting participants to engage in smaller breakout discussions on key aspects emerging from the presentations. These discussions will be facilitated by moderators, with the goal of highlighting the diverse ways in which contemporary dance engages with the broader question of social and cultural justice within its own working practice, treating this not as a separate concern but as inseparable from the question of fair working conditions itself.

Facilitators:

iCoDaCo partner **Signe Sandvej**, CuntsCollective, Denmark (she/her)



Signe Sandvej is a producer in the agency ART & ABOUT, where she has been since 2021. She works with project management as well as production and tour planning. She has extensive experience with festivals, performing arts productions, and tours, both in Denmark and internationally, taking a hands-on approach throughout the entire process, from fundraising to execution.

In addition, she has solid experience in promoting and presenting artistic works and representing artists at sales fairs and networking events.

She is collaborating with CuntsCollective, the Danish partner in iCoDaCo and work as the project manager for the collective.

www.cuntscollective.com & www.art-and-about.dk/en

iCoDaCo partner **Inta Balode**, Latvian Dance Information Centre, Dance.lv Journal & LAUKKU, Latvia (she / her)

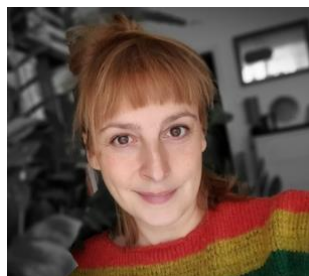


© LETA

Inta Balode is a Latvian dance critic, curator, dramaturge, writer and cultural practitioner. She has been active in the dance field since 2003, curating dance projects, festivals, seminars and other initiatives. Since 2017, she has headed the Latvian Dance Information Centre (LDIC), where she works on the development of the dance sector, international cooperation and dance policy. She is also a board member of the Latvian Dance Council, an advisory body to the Ministry of Culture. Inta was one of the initiators of Dance.lv Journal, established in 2011 as a platform for documenting and discussing contemporary dance. In 2017, she co-founded the international non-profit organisation LAUKKU, which promotes contemporary art and community engagement in regional areas. She contributes to the organisation of the Dance Award, Latvia's national award for professional dance, and currently curates the Dejas māja KURTUVĒ / Dance House KURTUVE programme in Valmiera. In 2026, she received a recognition award from the Valmiera Zonta Club for her contribution to the local community, the accessibility of contemporary art, the development of the dance sector, and community engagement in Latvia's regions.

<https://dance.lv/eng> & <https://laukku.lv>

iCoDaCo partner **Luca Kövécs**, SÍN Arts, Hungary (she/her)



Luca Kövécs (she/her) is a Creative Producer and Cultural Manager based in Budapest, working across contemporary performing and visual arts. She has over 20 years of experience in developing, coordinating and producing international artistic projects, festivals and site-specific works. Her background includes management, international relations, audience development and logistics. She is experienced in mediating between artists, institutions and international partners, with a hands-on approach.

<https://en.sinarts.org>

iCoDaCo partner **Carolina Barbosa**, Instável, Portugal (she/her)



Carolina Barbosa works as a producer across performing arts projects and events, as well as in production and cultural mediation within participatory artistic projects. She is currently responsible for training programmes and European projects at Instável – Centro Coreográfico. She holds a degree in Artistic Studies – Performing Arts from the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Lisbon and is pursuing a master's degree in Sociology, specialising in Contexts, Practices and Cultural Policies, at the University of Porto. Her academic and professional practice brings together the arts, humanities and social sciences, combining artistic practice with research and social and political engagement.

www.instavel.pt

4. Interactive discussion (17:10 – 17:50 CET)

The guest rapporteurs will each share their takeaways from the breakout room they followed, drawing on their personal and professional experiences of engaging with body politics in their work. Facilitated by **Yohann Floch**, FACE.

Guest rapporteur **Milica Ilić**, freelance expert, Belgium (she/her)



Milica Ilić is a creative consultant and cultural worker working at the intersection of contemporary and socially engaged arts, cultural policy and transnational cooperation. Her work combines research, project development and the curation of discursive formats and public programmes. She investigates how artistic ecosystems evolve across borders, and how artists and cultural organisations develop alternative ways of producing and collaborating. Through publications, curated conversations and pedagogical initiatives, she contributes to collective reflection within the field. She previously coordinated the research project RESHAPE and worked with Onda and IETM on questions of artistic mobility, international circulation and network-building.

Guest rapporteur **Jana Grünewald**, Dachverband Tanz Deutschland, Germany (she/her)



© Anna Bauer

Jana Grünewald has been working at the Dachverband Tanz Deutschland (German Dance Association) since 2013, where she co-manages the project Creative Cross Collaborations Berlin (CCCberlin) and oversees the informal producer network InfoPlus and the Europe-wide network PAMPA (Producers, Agents, Managers in the Performing Arts). From 2019 to 2025 she was part of the lead team of the Kreativ-Transfer funding programme and oversaw its predecessor project "Export Fund - Focus Dance" (2016-2018). From 2015 to May 2023, she was part of the editorial team at touring artists, the information and advice service for artists and cultural professionals working internationally.

www.dachverband-tanz.de & www.pampa-network.org

Guest rapporteur **Isabel Andreen**, Théâtre National de Bretagne, France (she/her)



© Mathilde Notry / MCM

Isabel Andreen has been operating in European performing arts since 2000. She has held a verse number of positions such as production manager within dance, coordinator of European projects for emergent choreographers, artistic adviser for regional performing arts agencies... Since 2021 she has been working part-time as an independent consultant, regularly collaborating with the network On the Move for specific missions on international professional development programmes and is employed as international development manager at Theatre National de Bretagne.

www.t-n-b.fr/en & <https://on-the-move.org>

Guest rapporteur **Giuliana Ciano**, Liv.in.g., Italy (she/her)



© Andrea Dominici

Giuliana Ciano is a researcher, cultural manager and lecturer working across performing arts, international cultural cooperation and cultural policy. Combining research and practice, she explores how culture intersects with politics and society. Over the years, she has conceived, curated and coordinated large-scale European and international projects. She has worked with foundations, cultural networks, public institutions and independent organisations across Europe, developing festivals, artistic programmes, co-creation labs, seminars and masterclasses. Actually, she is co-founder of the Italian social enterprise Liv.in.g – Live Internationalization Gateway, a board member of the international cultural mobility network On the Move, and a member of the Founders' Council of Fondazione Fitzcarraldo. She regularly publishes on political emotions, cultural policy and politics and international cultural cooperation.

www.livingnet.eu

5. Closing remarks (17:50 – 18:00 CET)

About us

FACE – Fresh Arts Coalition Europe

FACE is a resource platform dedicated to supporting the internationalisation of professional practices and fostering innovative, practice-based learning in the performing arts. Through a range of comprehensive workshops, mentoring programmes, mobility experiences, and capacity-building initiatives, FACE empowers artists, cultural professionals, institutions, and grassroots arts organisations.

<https://fresh-europe.org>

iCoDaCo – International Contemporary Dance Collective

iCoDaCo is a Creative Europe-funded project that supports contemporary dance artists through collaborative research, professional development, and international exchange. The project focuses on fostering innovative, sustainable, and inclusive practices in contemporary dance, with a particular emphasis on cross-border collaboration and artistic experimentation.

www.icodaco.com

HowlRound TV

HowlRound TV is a global, commons-based, peer-produced, open-access live streaming and video archive project stewarded by the non-profit HowlRound. HowlRound TV is a free and shared resource for live conversations and performances relevant to the world's performing-arts and cultural fields. Its mission is to break geographic isolation, promote resource sharing, and develop our knowledge commons collectively.

<https://howlround.com>